



CD 01--71

Thursdays at Noon
presents

St. Lawrence String Quartet

Geoff Nuttall & Barry Shiffman, violins
Lesley Robertson, viola; Marina Hoover, cello

featuring

Jonathan Berger: *Miracles and Mud*

Dedicated to the St. Lawrence String Quartet

Jonathan Berger, professor at Stanford University,
will discuss *Miracles and Mud* at this presentation

Thursday, October 4
12:10 pm. Walter Hall
Free

Disklavier provided by Yamaha Music Canada

EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING • 80 QUEEN'S PARK
BOX OFFICE: 416-978-3744

JONATHAN BERGER, Associate Professor, Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics, Stanford University. M.F.A., California Institute of the Arts; D.M.A., Stanford University. Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, ASCAP, Morse and Mellon Fellowships, and Bourges Prizes for electroacoustic music. In addition to recent works for interactive electronics, he has written symphonic and chamber works (including four large orchestral works, a piano concerto, a viola concerto, three string quartets, and a piano quintet), choral and vocal music, and works for computer alone. His *Piano Concerto*, commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts premiered in Moscow. His *Viola Concerto* premiered in Paris, Fall 1999. Berger recently completed a piano trio commissioned by the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music, and premiered *Arroyo*, an interactive work for dancer, computer, and live musicians commissioned by the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes de México. Recipient of Chamber Music of America's Millenium Commission. Research includes studies in music cognition, recognition and transformation of musical patterns, and development of musical applications using local trigonometric transforms and wavelet packets. Founding director of Yale University's Center for Studies in Music Technology. Works can be heard on the Sony Classical, Harmonia Mundi, Centaur, Neuma, CRI, and CCRMA labels.

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Twelve years ago, four vibrant musicians joined forces to create the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Since that time, rave reviews have followed them through tours around the world. *Le Monde* of Paris called them "a quartet of stars." In a recent review in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, one critic hailed, "here is an ensemble that plays with energy and fearless adventurousness." Since its founding in 1989, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has proven it possible to entertain a wide range of audiences while maintaining the highest level of musical interpretation and technique.

As part of its exclusive multi-record contract with EMI Classics, the St. Lawrence String Quartet released in May 1999 a thrilling rendition of Schumann's Quartets Nos. 1 & 3, which won a Juno Award for Best Classical Album: Solo or Chamber Music. They have been appointed to the faculty at Stanford University, where they direct the chamber music and string music programmes at the department of music. They continue to have strong ties to the University of Toronto where they act as Visiting Artists working with students, chamber ensembles and young composers. Support from The Canada Council Touring Office, the Ontario Arts Council and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts allow the St. Lawrence to continue performing across the globe. This fall the quartet will tour Europe including performances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and their recital debut in Berlin.

The quartet derives its name from the great St. Lawrence River, which provides a 2,342-mile link between Canada and the United States. But this quartet is unquestionably Canadian at heart. Second violinist Barry Shiffman was born and bred in Canada, having attended the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto. Born in Texas but drawn to Ontario, first violinist Geoff Nuttall studied at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto. Crossing the other way, after graduating from Canada's University of British Columbia, violist Lesley Robertson received her advanced degrees from the Curtis Institute and The Juilliard School. Cellist Marina Hoover earned degrees from both the Curtis Institute and Yale University. Both Lesley and Marina are natives of Edmonton.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet has strong ties to both its countries of heritage. Since its inception in Canada, the quartet studied in a program jointly sponsored by the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music. As the quartet matured, the musicians crossed the border to the United States as the first quartet to participate in a two-year residency program at the Hartt School of Music at Hartford University. There they received intensive coaching with the renowned Emerson String Quartet. They went on to The Juilliard School, where they served as "Graduate String-Quartet-in-Residence" from 1992-94. At Yale University, from 1994-96, they were teaching assistants to the eminent Tokyo String Quartet.

The members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet have helped to create innovative programs introducing music to people throughout North America. In Kansas, they joined with Robert Kapilow and the Ying String Quartet to create an original and extremely successful yearlong program, *Music-Connection*, for the Kansas City Friends of Chamber Music. With a similar educational goal in mind, other residency programs were developed for the Sidney Institute in Orlando and the Carnegie Hall Foundation in New York City.

Success in North America has not prevented the St. Lawrence String Quartet from receiving international recognition. In 1992, the ensemble won the Fourth Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Critically acclaimed debuts include not only those in New York City at the 92nd Street Y and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., but also at the Paris Opera. In October 1993, news of the quartet reached the White House, when at the invitation of Isaac Stern and Young Concert Artists, the quartet performed for the President and Mrs. Clinton during an evening honoring the recipients of the National Medal of the Arts. The quartet's international successes include a past tour in Japan and debuts in some of the most renowned musical sites in Europe, such as Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, and London's Wigmore Hall. Return engagements are not new to the Quartet members, as they have returned to Paris and Amsterdam, including to the Concertgebouw, Radio France, and Théâtre de la Ville. Their broad appeal has taken them to festivals across Europe, such as the Turku Festival in Finland and the Festival Consonances in St. Nazaire, France.

On the North America circuit, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has performed not only in Lincoln Center's Great Performances series and the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York City, but also in Washington, D.C., Boston, Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, La Jolla, Montréal, Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Banff, Edmonton and Vancouver. The Quartet has enjoyed playing in celebrated American music festivals, including the Spoleto USA Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, SummerFest La Jolla in southern California, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival in New Mexico, Newport Festival in Rhode Island, and the Rockport Festival in Massachusetts.

In addition to performing works from the great classical repertoire, the St. Lawrence String Quartet is actively involved in commissioning and performing new works. Composers such as Patrick Cardy, Christos Hatzis, Osvaldo Golijov, Jonathan Berger, John Hale and R. Murray Schafer work with the quartet, writing new works, some incorporating multi-media collaborations, especially for them.

Through generous local sponsorship, enthusiastic audiences, and musical excellence, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has earned a place at the top of its field. The natural talent, youthful exuberance and unique musical understanding of each member contributes to the artistic unity that continues to captivate audiences along the St. Lawrence River, across the oceans, and around the world.

Visit the St. Lawrence String Quartet on the Internet at www.slsq.com